

CLAIMS

1. An ionically balanced composition for applying to soil or plants comprising an aqueous solution or dry admixture of at least one nonionic acrylamide polymer, and an ionically counterbalanced diluent.

2. The composition according to claim 1, where the ionically counterbalance diluent is a nitrogen source.

3. The composition according to claim 2, wherein the nitrogen containing source is an ammonium salt.

4. The composition according to claim 3, wherein the ammonium salt is a member selected from the group consisting of ammonium sulfate, ammonium chloride, ammonium metaphosphate, ammonium nitrate, diammonium phosphate, monoammonium phosphate, ammonium phosphate nitrate, ammonium phosphate sulfate, ammonium polysulfate, ammonium polyphosphate, ammonium sulfate nitrate, ammonium thiosulfate, ammonium polysulfide, ammonium citrate and urea and mixtures thereof.

5. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the nitrogen containing source is ammonium sulfate.

6. The composition according to claim 1, which additionally contains an anionic or nonionic polymer of acrylamide.

7. The composition according to claim 1, which contains a mixture of nonionic acrylamide polymers and anionic polymers of acrylamide.

8. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the acrylamide polymer is polyacrylamide.

9. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymer of acrylamide is a copolymer with up to 20% by weight of an unsaturated comonomer.

10. An aqueous concentrate comprising an aqueous solution of a water soluble nonionic and/or anionic acrylamide polymer and an ionically counterbalanced diluent.

11. The concentrate according to claim 10, in which the solution additionally contains an active ingredient which is a herbicide.

12. The concentrate according to claim 10, wherein the herbicide is glyphosate amine thereof, salt thereof or other water soluble form, phenoxy herbicide as amine or metallic salt as in its free acid form.

13. The concentrate according to claim 10, in which the polymer is formed from 80 to 100% acrylamide and up to 20% ethylenically unsaturated anionic monomer.

14. The concentrate according to claim 10, in which the polymer is a nonionic polyacrylamide, an anionic polyacrylamide or blends thereof.

15. The concentrate according to claim 10, which additionally contains a nitrogen containing source, and optionally a surfactant.

16. A method of making an aqueous concentrate comprising mixing together at least one acrylamide polymer, water and an ionically counterbalanced diluent.

17. The method according to claim 16, which additionally comprises adding a nitrogen containing source to the concentrate, and optionally at least one of a surfactant and a herbicide.

18. A method of applying an ionically balanced composition to soil or a plant comprising spraying an admixture of at least one acrylamide polymer, herbicide, and an ionically counterbalanced diluent and optionally, a surfactant to the soil or plant.

19. The method according to claim 18, where the ionically counterbalanced diluent is a nitrogen source in the composition to be applied to the soil or plant.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the nitrogen containing source is an ammonium salt.

21. The method according to claim 20, wherein the ammonium salt is ammonium sulfate.

22. The method according to claim 18, wherein the composition contains a mixture of a nonionic polyacrylamide and an anionic polyacrylamide.

LIT/815319.2